

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting blade for a hand-held cutting tool configured to mount the cutting blade with first and second mounting rods that are spaced from one another by a mounting distance, comprising:

a body having first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces being spaced from one another;

at least three mounting holes passing through the body, a first pair of the mounting holes being spaced the mounting distance from one another and a second pair of the mounting holes being spaced the mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the second pair not being included in the first pair of mounting holes;

a first shear edge adapted to cooperate with a reciprocating cutting member to shear a workpiece when the first and second mounting rods are received in the first pair of mounting holes, the first shear edge being spaced from the first pair of mounting holes by a ~~fixed~~first distance and in a ~~fixed~~first orientation with respect thereto, and the first shear edge being spaced from the second pair of mounting holes by a second distance and in a second orientation with respect thereto, wherein at least one of the second distance and the second orientation differs from a respective one of the first distance and the first orientation; and

a second shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece when the first and second mounting rods are received in the second pair of mounting holes, the second shear edge being spaced from the first shear edge, the second shear edge being spaced from the second pair of mounting holes by ~~said fixed~~the first distance and in ~~said fixed~~the first orientation with respect to the second pair of mounting holes.

2. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein there are three mounting holes, one of the mounting holes of the first pair comprising one of the mounting holes of the second pair.

3. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein the at least three mounting holes comprise a central mounting hole, a first outer mounting hole and a second outer mounting hole, the central mounting hole being spaced from each of the first and second outer mounting holes by said mounting distance, the first pair of mounting holes comprising the central mounting hole and the first outer mounting hole and the second pair of mounting holes comprising the central mounting hole and the second outer mounting hole.

4. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 1 further comprising a blunt first guide surface extending transversely between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body.

5. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 4 wherein the first shear edge is positioned at a junction of the first guide surface and the first shear face and the second shear edge is positioned at a junction of the first guide surface and the second shear face.

6. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 4 wherein the first guide surface is flat to lie flush against a face of the workpiece while the workpiece is sheared.

7. (Currently Amended) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein the at least three mounting holes includes a third pair of mounting holes, the mounting holes of the third pair being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the third pair being included in neither of the first and second pairs of mounting holes, the cutting blade further comprising a third shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the third shear edge being spaced from the first and second shear edges, the third shear edge being

spaced from the third pair of mounting holes by ~~said fixed~~the first distance and in ~~said fixed~~the first orientation with respect to the third pair of mounting holes.

8. (Currently Amended) The cutting blade of claim 6 wherein the at least three mounting holes includes a fourth pair of mounting holes, the mounting holes of the fourth pair being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the fourth pair being included in none of the first, second and third pairs of mounting holes, the cutting blade further comprising a fourth shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the fourth shear edge being spaced from the first, second and third shear edges, the fourth shear edge being spaced from the fourth pair of mounting holes by ~~said fixed~~the first distance and in ~~said fixed~~the first orientation with respect to the fourth pair of mounting holes.

9. (Previously Presented) A cutting blade for a hand-held cutting tool, comprising:

- a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces being parallel to one another;

- at least five mounting holes passing through the body and defining first, second, third and fourth pairs of mounting holes, the mounting holes of each pair being spaced a predetermined mounting distance from one another, the mounting distance being the same for each of the pairs, at least one of the mounting holes of each of the first, second, third and fourth pairs of mounting holes being included in none of the other three pairs of mounting holes; and

- spaced-apart first, second, third and fourth shear edges, each of which is adapted to cooperate with a reciprocating cutting member to shear a workpiece, the first shear edge being spaced from the first pair of mounting holes by a fixed distance and in a fixed orientation with respect to the first pair of mounting holes, the second shear edge being spaced from the second pair of mounting holes by said fixed distance and in said fixed orientation with respect to the second pair of mounting holes, the

third shear edge being spaced from the third pair of mounting holes by said fixed distance and in said fixed orientation with respect to the third pair of mounting holes, and the fourth shear edge being spaced from the fourth pair of mounting holes by said fixed distance and in said fixed orientation with respect to the fourth pair of mounting holes;

whereby the blade can be reoriented on a cutting head to position any one of the first, second, third and fourth shearing edges adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for cooperation therewith by attaching the blade to the cutting head using one of the first, second, third and fourth pairs of mounting holes, respectively.

10. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 9 wherein one of the mounting holes of the first pair comprises one of the mounting holes of the second pair.

11. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 9 wherein one of the mounting holes of the third pair comprises one of the mounting holes of the fourth pair.

12. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 9 wherein there are six mounting holes, one of the mounting holes of the first pair comprising one of the mounting holes of the second pair and one of the mounting holes of the third pair comprising one of the mounting holes of the fourth pair.

13. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 12 wherein neither of the holes of the first pair comprises a hole of the third or fourth pair and neither of the holes of the second pair comprises a hole of the third or fourth pair.

14. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 9 further comprising spaced-apart first and second guide surfaces, the first guide surface extending transversely between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body and the second guide surface extending transversely between the first and second shear faces along a second elongate edge of the body.

15. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 14 wherein each of the first and second guide surfaces are flat to lie flush against a face of the workpiece while the workpiece is sheared.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A set of cutting blades for a cutting tool that includes a reciprocating cutting member that pivots about a transverse axis, comprising:~~

~~a first blade that comprises:~~

~~a first body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the first body;~~

~~a blunt first-guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along an elongate lower edge of the first body;~~

~~a first shear edge defined at the junction between the first-guide surface and the first shear face and a second shear edge defined at the junction between the first-guide surface and the second shear face; and~~

~~at least three mounting holes, two of the mounting holes being associated with the first shear edge and being spaced from one another by a fixed mounting distance and two of the mounting holes being associated with the second shear edge and being spaced from one another by the fixed mounting distance, wherein the mounting holes associated with the first shear edge are arranged in a first orientation with respect to the first shear edge and are arranged in a second orientation with respect to the second shear edge, the second orientation differing from the first orientation, and wherein the mounting holes associated with the second shear edge are arranged in the first orientation with respect to the second shear edge and are arranged in a third orientation with respect to the first shear edge, the third orientation differing from the first orientation~~

~~a second blade that comprises:~~

~~a second body having spaced-apart third and fourth shear faces, the third and fourth shear faces defining a thickness of the second body;~~

~~a blunt second-guide surface extending between the third and fourth shear faces along an elongate lower edge of the second body;~~

~~a third shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the third shear face and a fourth shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the fourth shear face;~~
~~at least three mounting holes, two of the mounting holes being associated with the first shear edge and being spaced from one another by a fixed mounting distance and two of said mounting holes being associated with the second shear edge and being spaced from one another by said fixed mounting distance;~~
~~wherein the first shear face is parallel to and spaced from the third shear face by a gap, the gap being sized to movably receive the reciprocating cutting member therein.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The cutting blade of claim 16 wherein the first blade includes three mounting holes, a central one of the mounting holes being associated with the first and second shear edges and being equidistant from each of the other two mounting holes.

18. (Currently Amended) A cutting blade for a hand-held cutting tool of the type having a motor, a casing having a support adapted to carry a pair of fixed cutting blades in a spaced-apart relationship, and a reciprocating cutting member which pivots about a transverse axis to reciprocate between the fixed cutting blades, the cutting blade comprising:

- a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;
- a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body;
- a first shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the first shear face and a second shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being parallel to and spaced from one another by the thickness of the body;

a first pair of mounting points adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the first shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece and to position the second shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the first shear edge, the first pair of mounting points including a central mounting point spaced a first distance from the first shear edge and a first distal mounting point spaced a different second distance from the first shear edge; and

a second pair of mounting points adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the second shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece and to position the first shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the second shear edge, the second pair of mounting points including the central mounting point, which is spaced the first distance from the second shear edge, and a third distal mounting point spaced the second distance from the second shear edge.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 18 wherein the blade further comprises a second guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a second elongate edge of the body, the second guide surface being spaced from the first guide surface; a third shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the first shear face; and a fourth shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the second shear face.

23. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 22 wherein the blade further comprises a third mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the third shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece with the fourth shear edge being spaced transversely outwardly from both the reciprocating cutting member and the third shear edge; and a fourth mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the fourth shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece with the third shear edge being

spaced transversely outwardly from both the reciprocating cutting member and the fourth shear edge.

24-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A cutting blade for a cutting tool, comprising:
- a body having parallel first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces being spaced from one another to define a thickness of the body;
 - opposed first and second guide surfaces, the first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body and the second guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a second elongate edge of the body;
 - a first shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the first shear face and a first pair of mounting points associated with the first shear edge, the first pair of mounting points comprising first and second mounting points that are spaced from one another by a fixed distance and are arranged in a first orientation with respect to the first shear edge;
 - a second shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the second shear face and a second pair of mounting points associated with the second shear edge, the second pair of mounting points comprising first and second mounting points that are spaced from one another by said fixed distance and are arranged in a first orientation with respect to the second shear edge and a different second orientation with respect to the first shear edge;
 - a third shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the first shear face and a third pair of mounting points associated with the third shear edge, the third pair of mounting points comprising first and second mounting points spaced from one another by said fixed distance;
 - and
 - a fourth shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the second shear face and a fourth pair of mounting points associated with the fourth shear edge, the fourth pair of mounting points comprising

first and second mounting points spaced from one another by said fixed distance.

32. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 31 wherein the first mounting point of each of the first, second, third and fourth pairs of mounting points comprises a hole passing through the thickness of the body.

33. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 31 wherein each of the mounting points comprises a hole passing through the thickness of the body.

34. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 31 wherein the first mounting point of the first pair of mounting points is also the first mounting point of the second pair of mounting points.

35. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 31 wherein the first mounting point of the third pair of mounting points is also the first mounting point of the fourth pair of mounting points.

36. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 31 wherein the first shear edge is parallel to each of the second, third and fourth shear edges.

37. (Original) A cutting blade for a hand-held cutting tool, comprising:
a body having parallel first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces being spaced from one another to define a thickness of the body;
at least six mounting holes passing through the thickness of the body, a first pair of the mounting holes being spaced a predetermined mounting distance from one another; a second pair of said mounting holes being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the second pair not being included in the first pair of mounting holes; a third pair of said mounting holes being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the third pair being included in neither the first pair nor the second pair of mounting

holes; a fourth pair of said mounting holes being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the fourth pair being included in none of the first pair, the second pair, and the third pair of mounting holes;

spaced-apart first and second guides surfaces, the first guide surface extending transversely between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body and the second guide surface extending transversely between the first and second shear faces along a second elongate edge of the body, the first and second guide surfaces being parallel to one another;

a first shear edge adapted to cooperate with a reciprocating cutting member to shear a workpiece, the first shear edge being spaced from the first pair of mounting holes by a fixed distance and in a fixed orientation with respect to the first pair of mounting holes;

a second shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the second shear edge being spaced from and parallel to the first shear edge, the second shear edge being spaced from the second pair of mounting holes by said fixed distance and in said fixed orientation with respect to the second pair of mounting holes;

a third shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the third shear edge being spaced from and parallel to the first shear edge and the second shear edge, the third shear edge being spaced from the third pair of mounting holes by said fixed distance and in said fixed orientation with respect to the third pair of mounting holes;

a fourth shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the fourth shear edge being spaced from and parallel to the first shear edge, the second shear edge and the third shear edge, the fourth shear edge being spaced from the fourth pair of mounting holes by said fixed distance and in said fixed orientation with respect to the fourth pair of mounting holes;

whereby the blade can be reoriented on a cutting head to position any one of the first, second, third and fourth shearing edges adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for cooperation therewith to shear the workpiece by attaching the blade to one of the first, second, third and fourth pairs of mounting holes, respectively.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A replacement set of cutting blades for use in connection with a hand-held cutting tool of the type having a motor, a casing having a support adapted to carry a pair of fixed cutting blades in a spaced-apart relationship, and a reciprocating cutting member which pivots about a transverse axis to reciprocate between the fixed cutting blades, the replacement set of cutting blades comprising:

a first blade including:

- a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;
- a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body;
- a first shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the first shear face and a second shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being parallel to and spaced from one another by the thickness of the body;
- a first mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the first shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece and to position the second shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the first shear edge, the first mount having a first positional relationship with respect to the first shear edge and a second positional relationship with respect to the second shear edge, the second positional relationship differing from the first positional relationship; and

a second mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the second shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece and to position the first shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the second shear edge, the second mount having the first positional relationship with respect to the second shear edge; and

a second blade including:

a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;

a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body;

a first shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the first shear face and a second shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being parallel to and spaced from one another by the thickness of the body;

a first mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the first shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member and parallel to one of the first and second shear edges of the first blade for shearing a workpiece and to position the second shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the first shear edge, the first mount having a first positional relationship with respect to the first shear edge and a second positional relationship with respect to the second shear edge, the second positional relationship differing from the first positional relationship; and

a second mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the second shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member and parallel to one of the first and second shear edges of the first blade for shearing a workpiece and to position the first shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting

member and the second shear edge, the second mount having the first positional relationship with respect to the second shear edge.

40-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein the at least one mounting hole of the second pair that is not included in the first pair does not receive a mounting rod when the first and second mounting rods are received in the first pair of mounting holes.

45. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 31 wherein at least one of the first and second mounting points of the second pair is not included in the first pair of mounting points; at least one of the first and second mounting points of the third pair is included in neither the first pair nor the second pair of mounting points; and at least one of the first and second mounting points of the fourth pair is included in none of the first pair, the second pair, and the third pair of mounting points.